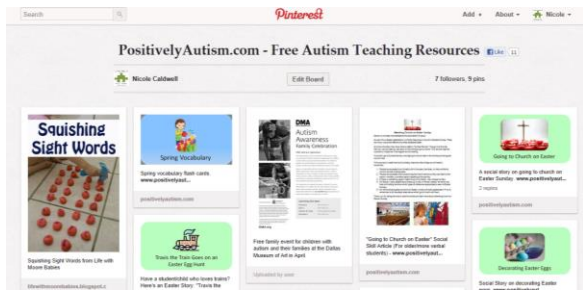


PositivelyAutism.com Newsletter
March 2013
Topic: Autism and Spirituality



Positively Autism is now on
Pinterest! Follow us here:
<http://pinterest.com/positiveautism/positivelyautismcom-free-autism-teaching-resources/>

March Newsletter Topic: Autism and Spirituality

For our newsletter this month, we will explore issues about autism and spirituality and religion. We will look at ways to involve a child with autism in church or other religious services and explore the spiritual gifts of children with autism.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." - Romans 12:6

Worshiping With a Child With Special Needs, By Terri Mauro

"Making it through a worship service with a child with special needs can be a true test of faith. Between keeping your child under control and warding off the evil eye of fellow pew-sitters, you may feel that no one in your family is getting anything out of the service. If you have your heart set on some kind of Ideal Worship Experience, wherein your neatly dressed children sit quietly for every minute of the service, you're probably out of luck. But that doesn't mean your family should give up and stay home. Try these tips for getting more than a headache out of worship time."

Read more: <http://specialchildren.about.com/od/inthecommunity/a/worship.htm>

Autism and Spirituality: Q and A with William Stillman

An interesting conversation with William Stillman, author of Autism and the God Connection.
<http://autism.about.com/od/inspirationideas/a/StillmanQA.htm>



[Buy the book from Amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Book Description:

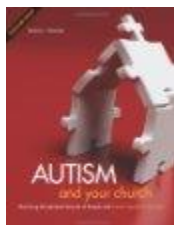
Autism has evolved from an unfamiliar term to an everyday reality for millions of people. Bookstore shelves are filled with resources that address how Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects children and adults at school, work, and home.

But what about the church? What about your church? How can it become a welcoming place for individuals and families affected by ASD?

Autism and Your Church offers practical ways to welcome and include individuals with ASD into the full life of your congregation. This resource will enable church leaders to

- appreciate those with ASD as persons created in God's image
- learn about six common areas of difference in individuals with ASD.
- discover ten strategies for including people with ASD in the life of your church.
- develop an action plan for ongoing ministry with children and adults who have ASD.

A reproducible resources section includes interview and permission forms, a coordinator's job description, a sample Individual Spiritual Formation Plan, and more.



[Buy the Book from Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) | [Also Available in Spanish](#)

Autism Sunday: International Day of Prayer for Autism and Asperger's Syndrome

I wish I'd posted about Autism Sunday before the date passed this year, but I wanted to share in case you'd like to plan for next year.

“Autism Sunday, also known as the International Day of Prayer for Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, is observed annually on the second Sunday of February.

Autism Sunday was first held in 2002 during Autism Awareness Year in the United Kingdom. Autism Awareness Year was supported by 800 UK organisations. It was the first ever occasion of partnership working on Autism on such a large scale.”

Autism Sunday Official Website: <http://www.autismsunday.co.uk/>

Autism Sunday Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autism_Sunday

Autism and the God Connection **by William Stillman**



[Buy the book from Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Book Description (from the publisher, 2006):

"Everyone who seeks a more compassionate and wise life will benefit from this wonderful, insightful, and beautiful book. It is a very short step from understanding autism and the God connection to understanding you and the God Connection." --Gary Zukav, author of *The Seat of the Soul* and *The Dancing Wu Li Master*

"Autism and the God Connection is a compelling, powerful and thought-provoking book. Mr. Stillman describes the discoveries that unfold from conversations that he has with people that have a difficult time with conventional communication. He is able to see, feel and hear people from different perspectives." --Nicki Fischer, executive director, publisher and editor, *The Autism Perspective Magazine*

Autism impacts one out of every 166 children--ten times higher than just ten years ago. Despite the international scrambling of scientists to provide an explanation, there remains no single known cause for the rise in autism.

Autism and the God Connection views autism through a spiritual prism, unlocking its hidden meaning. Through countless interviews William Stillman documents extraordinary examples of spiritual giftedness.

Autism and the God Connection boldly challenges our traditionally held beliefs about people with disabilities. Readers looking for hope, inspiration and a deeper understanding of their loved ones will appreciate the affirming anecdotes of ordinary families.

Autism & Alleluias

Book Description

Publication Date: February 15, 2010

In the past two or three years, autism has garnered stories in *TIME*, *Newsweek*, and *USA Today*. According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau figures, 1 in 150 American children have autism, and the numbers are growing daily (an increase of 13% over the past ten years). Difficult behaviors, a myriad of specialists, problems with schools, special diets this developmental disability turns a family's world upside-down. What is the role that faith plays in helping families cope? Is it possible to sing alleluia in the midst of a very real adversity? In

this series of slice-of-life vignettes, God's grace glimmers through the shadows as Joel, an intellectually challenged teen with autism, teaches those who love him that walking the labyrinth of life requires childlike faith, humility, trust, compassion, forgiveness, and an attitude of openness to all of God's gifts.

Please note that the statistics reflect the time in which the book description was written, which is a few years ago.

Autism's Hidden Blessings: Discovering God's Promises for Autistic Children & Their Families



[Buy the Book from Amazon](#)

Book Description (From the Publisher)

Publication Date: March 9, 2009

God has a unique and magnificent purpose for every child—a purpose that is no less important for special-needs children. Through the story of her own ongoing struggles and victories raising her autistic son, Kelly Langston brings to light God's promises for exceptional kids and highlights covenants that assure special-needs parents of their children's potential and beauty.

News

March Positive Autism News

'Autism Doesn't Hold Me Back. I'm Moving Up the Career Ladder'

Driven New Generation of People with the Condition are Showing Employers There Is No Limit to What They Can Do

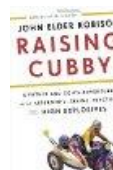
March 8, 2013

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/mar/08/autism-career-ladder-workplace>

John Elder Robison's New Book Takes a Fresh Look at Autism

March 19, 2013

<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/199055231.html?refer=y>



Theater Review: 'On The Spectrum' At The Fountain Theatre

March 25, 2013

<http://www.neontommy.com/news/2013/03/theater-review-spectrum-fountain-theatre>

Free Downloads

"When Mom Is On The Phone" Social Skill Story

A story that lets a child know why it is important to be quiet while mom is on the phone, and suggests some quiet activities to do during that time.

http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/Story_MomOnPhone.pdf

Teaching with Trains!

Many students with autism love trains, and I have used this interest as a teaching tool for many of my students. When I use trains, my students are often more interested in learning, pay better attention, and have more fun learning. Positively Autism has many free educational activities that have a train theme. My students love them, and I bet yours will too!

Travis the Train Learns Colors:

http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/Colors_StoryTrain.pdf

Travis the Train Delivers Shapes:

http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/Shapes_StoryTrain.pdf

Train Theme Alphabet Assessment:

<http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/LetterAssessment.pdf>

Train Track Tracing Activity: http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/Tracing_Train.pdf

Train Reading Flashcard Activity Ideas:

<http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/TrainReadingFlashcardFun.pdf>

"Travis the Train" Skip Count Worksheets

Count by 2s: <http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/TrainSkipCount2.pdf>

Count by 5s: <http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/TrainSkipCount5.pdf>

Count by 10s: <http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/TrainSkipCount10.pdf>

Train Phonics:

"an" Family Words: http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/TrainPhonics_an.pdf

"at" Family Words: http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/TrainPhonics_at.pdf

"ug" Family Words: http://www.positivelyautism.com/downloads/TrainPhonics_ug.pdf

Easter Social Stories and Activities



Going on an Easter Egg Hunt

Visit [Positively Autism's Easter Resources page](#) for:

- "Travis the Train Goes on an Easter Egg Hunt" Story
- "Going to Church on Easter" Social Skill Story
- "Going to Church on Easter" Social Skill Article (for older/more verbal students)
- "Decorating Easter Eggs" Social Skill Story
- "Going on an Easter Egg Hunt" Social Skill Story

Visit <http://www.PositivelyAutism.com/> for more great articles and teaching materials!